

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tampa Heights Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Bounded by Adalée St., I-275, 7th Ave.
and N. Tampa Ave.

N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Tampa

N/A ☐ vicinity

state Florida code FL county Hillsborough code 057 zip code 33605

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne P. Walker/Deputy SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/30/95
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Edson R. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

6.4.95
Date of Action

National Register of
Historic Places

Tampa Heights Historic District
Name of Property

Hillsborough, Florida
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
289	138	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
289	138	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Family Dwelling

Religion/Church

Education/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Family Dwelling

Religion/Church

Education/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style/Wood Frame Vernacular

Bungalow

Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other Wood: Porch

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet.

Tampa Heights Historic District
Name of Property

Hillsborough, Florida
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

c. 1890-1945

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Name of repository:

Historic Tampa/Hillsborough County
Preservation Board

Tampa Heights Historic District
Name of Property

Hillsborough, Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 200 apprx.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	356300	3094800
Zone	Easting	North	ing
2	17	357000	3094800

3	17	357000	3093240
Zone	Easting	North	ing
4	17	356300	3093240

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Carl Shiver, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date June 29, 1995

street & number 500 S. Bronough Street. telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
Description

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Summary Paragraph

The Tampa Heights Historic District comprises approximately 200 acres and contains 427 buildings, the majority of which are single family dwellings. The district also features several churches, a school, a fire station, and a handful of commercial buildings. There are 289 structures (68 percent) that contribute to the historic character of the neighborhood, while 138 (32 percent) are considered noncontributing. The historic buildings date from c. 1890 to 1945 and represent a wide variety of architectural styles. Most of the houses in the district are bungalows or wood frame vernacular residences erected between circa 1910 and 1925; however the district also features examples of such formal styles as Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, Tudor Revival, and Mediterranean Revival.

Supporting Narrative

The Tampa Heights neighborhood is found immediately north of downtown Tampa and west of the north-south corridor of Interstate Highway 275. The district is bounded by Adalee Street on the north, U.S. 275 on the east, 7th Avenue on the south, and North Tampa Avenue on the west. The main east-west traffic corridors through the district are Columbus Drive and Palm Avenue. The majority of the commercial buildings are found near the western edge of the district along the north-south corridors of Florida and Tampa avenues. The district has irregular boundaries. It is approximately five blocks wide and nineteen blocks long.

Although the street pattern is the familiar grid, the blocks vary in size and orientation, so that not all streets are continuous throughout the area. The street pattern reflects the fact that Tampa Heights did not grow up as a single planned development but is an aggregate of many small subdivisions. These were laid out more or less independently of one another between c. 1885 and 1940. The oldest part of the neighborhood is found south of Park Street and at one time included a number of large, late 19th century homes, many of which have since been demolished. Some Queen Anne and other turn of the century residences are found scattered throughout the district. Many of these were originally country homes associated with small orange groves outside the city limits. Eventually, these houses

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
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became surrounded by later buildings, as the groves were sold off for development as residential subdivisions.

Tampa Heights is only one of several historic residential neighborhoods in Tampa that began developing around the turn of the century. Two of these are already listed in the National Register as historic districts:

1. Hyde Park Historic District (listed 3/4/85)
2. Seminole Heights Residential District (listed 8/5/93)

The Tampa Heights Historic District retains many of its original streetscape features. These include brick streets, granite curbstones, and stamped concrete sidewalk pavers. Much of the area is dominated by a canopy of live oak trees, towering palms, and palmettos. Wood frame is the most prevalent form of residential construction. Housing setbacks vary little but do depend to some extent on the size and orientation of the city blocks. One-story bungalows and two-story frame vernacular structures line most of the streets. Most of the styled houses are an eclectic mixture common to the period in which they were constructed. These include Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival, and a handful of Tudor Revival residences.

The majority of the houses in Tampa Heights are one and two-story wood frame vernacular buildings. Some of these show the influence of the Queen Anne style by having decorative millwork and large front porches. The house at 405 East Palm Avenue (Photo 42) was constructed in 1906. The two-story structure is asymmetrically massed and has an off center gabled pavilion on the facade, and a two-story faceted bay on the east elevation. The house features a hip roof, wrap around 6-bay entrance porch, cross gables, and drop siding.

The typical frame vernacular residence in Tampa Heights is a rectangular structure set on brick piers with a full-width front porch. The exterior siding is usually weatherboard or drop siding, and the most common roofing materials are asphalt shingles and galvanized metal. The preferred fenestration seems to be 1/1 light double hung sash windows, but there are other types. Some bungalows, like the one at 308 East Oak Street (Photo 40) have 4/1 light windows, and the number and arrangement of panes may vary, according to the

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
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style of the building. Quite a few houses have side lights and a transom surrounding the main entrance, whatever the basic style of the building may be.

The frame vernacular house at 2302 N. Central Street (Photo 2) is typical of turn of the century buildings in the area. It has a 5-bay symmetrical facade and a one-story hipped roof porch supported by thin Tuscan columns. The porch deck is concrete, but the house rests on a brick pier foundation. The structure has a high, hip on gable main roof that is covered with raised seam metal sheeting. The exterior walls are drop siding. The windows are 1/1 double hung sash, except in the facade gable which has a 12 light fixed window. The gable also contains wood shingles.

One of the most numerous building types in the district is the bungalow. The majority of these follow the popular Craftsman pattern, having a front gable roof. Porches on the main facade may be either full or partial-width and may be sheltered under the main roof or have a separate, extended roof. The roofs are usually low-pitched with wide overhangs and exposed rafters. Columns supporting the porch roof are usually short and rest upon massive masonry piers connected by a solid balustrade. The most common exterior wall materials in Tampa Heights are drop siding and weatherboard. Like the majority of the houses in the district, most of the bungalows have 1/1 double hung sash windows, and there is little use of side lights and transoms to emphasize the main entrance. The bungalows along the 2900 block of Central Avenue (Photo 71) are typical of those found in the district.

There are few historic apartment buildings in the district. Many of the single family dwellings, like the one at 2008 N. Central Avenue (Photo 3), were later converted into apartments. Perhaps a handful of early 20th century structures, like the one at 212 E. Palm Avenue (Photo 35), were erected as multi-family housing. One of the attractive apartment buildings in Tampa Heights is the two-story Mediterranean Revival style building at 1902 N. Lamar Street (Photo 1), constructed about 1925.

There was historically very little commercial construction in Tampa Heights. Electric trolleys connected the large residential area with the principal shopping areas of 7th Avenue in Ybor City and Franklin Street in downtown Tampa. The neighborhood was also close to

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
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Sulfur Springs, which had its own small commercial district. One small commercial block is still found at 401-407 E. Oak Avenue (Photo 32), and there were a few grocery stores found in the vicinity that have long since vanished.

The churches Tampa Heights are found mainly along the main thoroughfares of Columbus Drive and Palm Avenue. This location made the facilities readily available to scattered congregations, as well as being convenient to persons living in the area. Structures like the Episcopal House of Prayer (Photo 10) at 2708 N. Central Avenue, the Rodolph Sholom Synagogue (Photo 38) at 309 E. Palm Avenue demonstrate the economic health of the neighborhood during the 1920s.

Tampa Heights is a racially and ethnically mixed area that also reflects a broad range of economic backgrounds for its residents. Few residences in the district are less than 30 years old. Evidence of blight remains in the south part of the district, and numerous houses are in need of repair. However, many houses are well maintained, and some home owners have invested substantial funds and time in the restoration of historic properties.

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
Photographs

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List of Photographs

1. 1902 N. Lamar St., Tampa Heights Historic District
2. Tampa (Hillsborough County), Florida
3. Jennifer Williams
4. 1994
5. Historic Tampa/Hillsborough County Preservation Board
6. East Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo No. 1 of 71

Items 2-5 are the same for all photographs of the Tampa Heights Historic District

1. 2302 N. Central Ave
6. East Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo No. 2 of 71

1. 2008 N. Central Ave.
6. East Facade and South Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 3 of 71

1. 1901 N. Central Ave.
6. West Facade and South Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 4 of 71

1. 2212 N. Morgan Ave.
6. East Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo No. 5 of 71

1. 2202 N. Morgan Ave.
6. East Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo No. 6 of 71

1. 2108 N. Morgan St.
6. East Facade, Looking West
7. Photo No. 7 of 71

1. 1808 N. Morgan St.
6. East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo No. 8 of 71

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
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1. 509 Columbus Dr.
6. North Facade and West Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 9 of 71

1. 2708 N. Central Ave.
6. East and South Elevations, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 10 of 71

1. 418 E. Amelia Ave.
6. South Facade and West Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 11 of 71

1. 107 E. Amelia Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 12 of 71

1. 105 E. Amelia Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 13 of 71

1. 209 E. Frances Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 14 of 71

1. 314 E. Frances Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 15 of 71

1. 319 E. Frances Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 16 of 71

1. 409 E. Frances Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 17 of 71

1. 401 E. Columbus Dr.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 18 of 71

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
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1. 305 E. Columbus Dr.
6. North Facade and West Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 19 of 71

1. 2303 N. Morgan Ave.
6. West Facade, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 20 of 71

1. 206 E. Ross Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 21 of 71

1. 208 E. Ross Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 22 of 71

1. 210 E. Ross Ave.
6. South Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 23 of 71

1. 404 E. Ross Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 24 of 71

1. 308 Park Ave.
6. South Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 25 of 71

1. 306 Park Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 26 of 71

1. 308 E. 7th Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 27 of 71

1. 408 E. 7th Ave.
6. South Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 28 of 71

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
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1. 2308 N. Central Ave.
6. East Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo No. 29 of 71

1. 407 E. Palm Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 30 of 71

1. 603 E. Palm Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 31 of 71

1. 401-407 E. Oak Ave.
6. North Facade and West Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 32 of 71

1. 307 E. Oak Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 33 of 71

1. 308 E. Oak Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 34 of 71

1. 212 E. Palm Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 35 of 71

1. 301 E. Palm Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 36 of 71

1. 305 E. Palm Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 37 of 71

1. 309 E. Palm Ave.
6. North Facade and West Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 38 of 71

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
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1. 402 E. Palm Ave.
6. South Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 39 of 71

1. 404 E. Palm Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 40 of 71

1. 406 E. Palm Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 41 of 71

1. 405 E. Palm Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 42 of 71

1. 602 E. Palm Ave.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 43 of 71

1. North Lamar Street
6. Looking North from 1902 Lamar Street
7. Photo No. 44 of 71

1. East 7th Ave.
6. Looking Northeast between Morgan and Jefferson Avenues
7. Photo No. 45 of 71

1. 1910 N. Florida Ave.
6. East Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo No. 46 of 71

1. 1805 N. Florida Ave.
6. North Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo No. 47 of 71

1. North Morgan Avenue
6. Looking South between Park and Ross Avenues
7. Photo No. 48 of 71

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Tampa, Hillsborough County
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Section number 7 Page 10

1. East Park Street
6. Looking West between Jefferson and Morgan Avenues
7. Photo No. 49 of 71

1. 2822 N. Elmore Ave.
6. East Facade and South Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 50 of 71

1. 411 Robles St.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 51 of 71

1. 414 Robles St.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 52 of 71

1. 2802 N. Central Ave.
6. East Facade and South Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 53 of 71

1. 2810 North Central Ave.
6. East Facade, Looking West
7. Photo No. 54 of 71

1. 2828 N. Central Ave.
6. East Facade, Looking West
7. Photo No. 55 of 71

1. 2902 N. Central Ave.
6. East Facade, Looking West
7. Photo No. 56 of 71

1. 2904 N. Central Ave.
6. East Facade, Looking West
7. Photo No. 57 of 71

1. 2906 N. Central Ave.
6. East Facade, Looking West
7. Photo No. 58 of 71

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Tampa, Hillsborough County
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1. 2908 N. Central Ave.
6. East Facade, Looking West
7. Photo No. 59 of 71

1. 420 Forest St.
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 60 of 71

1. 2808 N. Jefferson Ave.
6. East Facade, Looking West
7. Photo No. 61 of 71

1. 2809 N. Morgan Ave.
6. West Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 62 of 71

1. 2713 N. Morgan Ave.
6. West Facade, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 63 of 71

1. 407 Floribraska Ave.
6. North Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 64 of 71

1. 212 Floribraska Ave.
6. South Facade and West Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 65 of 71

1. 307 E. Adalee St.
6. North Facade and West Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 66 of 71

1. 2300 N. Tampa Ave.
6. West Facade, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 67 of 71

1. 2716 Morgan Ave.
6. East Facade, Looking West
7. Photo No. 68 of 71

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
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1. 304 E. Ross Ave.
6. South and West Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 69 of 71

1. 7th Avenue
6. Looking East from Jefferson Ave.
7. Photo No. 70 of 71

1. 2900 Block of Central
6. West Side of Street, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 71 of 71

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
Building List

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List of Contributing Buildings

7th Ave.

308
312
408

E. Adalee St.

307

E. Amelia Ave.

101
105
107
109
111
304
305
306
307
310
311
312
313
314
315
403
404
408
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412
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501
508
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510

N. Central Ave.

1708
1710
1803
1805
1905
2003
2005
2007
2008
2015
2105
2201
2206
2302
2304
2308
2310
2708
2802
2804
2808
2809
2810
2812
2824
2828
2902
2904
2906
2908
2909
2910
2911
3005
3007

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Continuation SheetTampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
Building ListSection number 7 Page 14E. Columbus Dr.208
302
305
401
410
509Elmore Ave.2708
2816
2818
2822
2830
2907
2909E. Floribraska Ave.204
210
212
308
309
316
406
407
409
410
412
414
415
416
505
506
507
509
511
513E. Floribraska Ave. (cont.)

515

N. Florida Ave.1805
1910
2002
2004
2009
2201
2301
2302
2305-2315
2700-2710Forest St.409
413
414
417
418
420
422E. Frances Ave.209
303
305
306
307
309
314
316
318
319
403
409

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Continuation SheetTampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
Building ListSection number 7 Page 15E. Frances Ave. (cont.)505
508
510
511
512
602
604
605
606Gladys St.409
413Grove St.

2302

Hugh St.401
405
409
410
411
412
415
417
504
507
509
510
511
512
513Jefferson Ave.2106
2107
2301
2401
2704
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2716
2717
2719
2720
2806
2808
2810
2815
2818
2908
3004
3006
3010
3012
3014Lamar Ave.1902
1904
1909
1910
2004
2005
2007
2008
2010Morgan Ave.1808
1907

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Building ListSection number 7 Page 16Morgan Ave. (cont.)2006
2101
2106
2108
2202
2206
2208
2212
2302
2303
2304
2305
2306
2704
2705
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2713
2716
2718
2806
2809
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2817
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2827
2830
2831
3001
3007
3010
3012
3013
3014Oak Ave.110
306
307
308
309
310
401-407
410
505Palm Ave.212
301
303
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309
400
401
402
404
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406
407
409
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506
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509
602
603Park Ave.209
210
211
213

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Tampa, Hillsborough County
Building ListSection number 7 Page 17Park Ave. (cont.)304
305
306
308
404
505
506
507
509
511
513
517Robles St.411
414
514Ross Ave.112
206
208
210
301
303
304
305
306
404
506
510Sparkman Ave.505
507
509Sparkman Ave. (cont.)

601

Tampa Ave.

2301

Noncontributing Buildings7th Ave.

412

Adalee St.

305

Amelia Ave.203
308
401
405
406
409
416
503
507Central Ave.1901
2010
2202
2204
2210
2301
2303
2811
2813

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Central Ave. (cont.)

2814
2815
2817
2819
2820
2907

Florida Ave.

1803
1905
2003
2202
2209
2211
2306

Columbus Dr.

206
209
211
308
314
408
412
414
416

Forest St.

410
415
416
419
421

Elmore Ave.

2828
2911

Frances Ave.

208
310
311
401
407
509

Floribraska Ave.

310
311
312
408
411
417
418
502
520

Gladys St.

314
316
318
406
412

Hugh St.

403
407
419
505

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Hugh St. (cont.)

506

Jefferson Ave.

2102

2403

2705

2706

2707

2713

2722

2726

2801

2803

2807

2812

2903

2909

2911

2913

Morgan Ave.

2310

2312

2707

2708

2709

2711

2712

2714

2717

2718

2720

2802

2810

2811

2818

2820

Morgan Ave. (cont.)

3005

3008

3009

3011

Oak Ave.

406

408

Palm Ave.

215

302

311

408

Park Ave.

312

314

316

405

406

410

412

508

Robles St.

401

402

410

416

502

504

506

510

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Tampa Heights Historic District
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Robles St. (cont.)

512

Ross Ave.

114

308

309

401

402

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Tampa Heights Historic District
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Significance

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Summary

Tampa Heights is significant under criteria A and C in the areas of architecture and community planning and development. It is one of Tampa's oldest residential neighborhoods, with houses dating from the late 1800s to the mid-1940s. The houses in the historic district reflect architectural styles favored by Americans for nearly six decades. Housing types range from simple wood frame structures to styled masonry buildings. The area is marked by a variety of other structures as well: apartment buildings, churches, and commercial buildings. Originally established as a neighborhood for Tampa's wealthier citizens, the area eventually attracted persons of all economic backgrounds. The district is associated with the pioneer settlement of the Tampa Bay region and its economic development.

Supporting Narrative

Tampa is located in the western part of central Florida at the mouth of the Hillsborough River which empties into Old Tampa Bay, an inlet to the Gulf of Mexico. It occupies all of the Hillsborough peninsula, spreading north and west from the edge of Tampa Bay. Tampa is the seat of Hillsborough County and a major seaport. It is a financial center of the state and light manufacturing plays an important role in the economy, as do tourism and sports. Cigar manufacturing, which once employed thousands of workers, no longer contributes significantly to the economic life of the city. The industry, however, has left its mark on the population with the high percentage of residents of Latin background, the majority of whom are of Cuban origin. Tampa is a city of approximately 300,000 residents and part of a metropolitan area in west Florida having a population of about 2,000,000. The nearby beaches and other attractions, the sporting facilities and climate bring thousands of tourists to the area each year, adding to the economic vitality of the area.

Although the Tampa Bay area was known to the Spanish as early as the 16th century, it was not settled by persons of European descent until the U.S. Army established Fort Brooke at the mouth of the Hillsborough River in 1824. The trading post and small settlement that sprang up near the fort became Tampa, but the settlement remained no more than a wilderness village for more than half a century. The

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population of Tampa in 1880 stood at only 720 residents. Several events launched Tampa on its course to becoming a large modern city.

In 1883, the old Fort Brooke military reservation was opened to civilian settlement, causing a flurry of real estate speculation. The same year saw the completion of the South Florida Railroad linking Tampa with Jacksonville and the discovery of phosphate in the vicinity. The mining of this essential ingredient in commercial fertilizer would bring a wave of new settlement to Central Florida and transform Tampa into a major port from which the mineral was shipped all over the world.

Far more important to the rapid and spectacular growth of Tampa after 1885, however, was attracting Vincente Martinez Ybor and other major cigar manufacturers to Tampa. Ybor was a Spanish citizen who had begun manufacturing cigars in Cuba in 1856. At the outbreak of the "Ten Year War" rebellion against Spanish rule in 1868, Ybor was forced to flee to Key West, Florida, because he was suspected of disloyalty to Spain. He set up operations again on the island city, located just 90 miles from Havana. Ybor persuaded other Cuban and American cigar manufacturers to join him. Labor was readily available among the thousands of refugees who had fled the conflict in their homeland.

After more than 15 years in Key West, Ybor decided to seek a more favorable place to operate his business. Shipping traffic between Key West and major ports was irregular and unreliable, hindering access to raw materials and markets. The conflict between Spanish and Cuban workers over the fate of Cuba also caused constant labor problems, resulting in costly strikes. After examining other locations, Ybor decided in 1885 to relocate to Tampa. His decision was heavily influenced by the availability of transportation and incentives offered by the Tampa businessmen, who provided him a large tract of land northwest of town on which to build factories and houses for cigar workers. Within a year "Ybor City" had become an incorporated community standing almost in the shadow of downtown Tampa. Its independence, however, was short-lived. In 1887, Tampa annexed Ybor City creating a community with a population of 5,000. Tampa's population increased dramatically over the next several decades, especially after a second cigar-producing center was established at West Tampa on the west side of the Hillsborough River.

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By the end of the 19th century, Tampa was becoming a city with numerous new residential neighborhoods, spawned by the wealth of the cigar industry and connected to the heart of town by electric trolleys. Hyde Park, Tampa Heights, Seminole Heights, Palma Ceia, and New Suburb Beautiful offered the city's middle and upper income residents a peaceful setting, made attractive by well built houses, schools, and churches.

The first subdivision in Tampa Heights was Orange Grove Estates created in the 1870s from the old homestead of Joseph Robles who settled in the Tampa area in 1857. The area was located north of Columbus Drive between Florida and Nebraska Avenues. More than a decade would follow before any new subdivisions would be established in Tampa Heights. Karamer's Subdivision was recorded in 1889, followed by Bonniehurst Subdivision in 1890. There were 21 new subdivisions platted in the area between 1901 and 1907. This piecemeal development is today reflected in the jogged streets and the size and orientation of the blocks.

By 1900, the patchwork residential neighborhood had acquired the title of "Tampa Heights." City directories and Sanborn for the period 1890-1910 maps show that the suburb had developed rapidly and was home to many of Tampa's important businessmen and other prominent citizens. Its location was convenient to Ybor City and the financial and port areas of downtown Tampa. Its distance from the marshy, low-lying areas of Tampa was also thought to protect the inhabitants from the yellow fever epidemics that yearly struck the city in the 19th century.

At the crest of its reputation about 1910, a Tampa Heights address was among the most fashionable in the city. The southern area of the neighborhood, in particular, was marked by large, two-story frame dwellings. These usually had Queen Anne massing and details. It was about this time that the wealthier citizens of Tampa began to build new homes in Hyde Park, west of the Hillsborough River. Development of the neighborhood began in the 1880s, but had lagged behind Tampa Heights until the establishment of West Tampa.

Although some larger houses were built in Tampa Heights during the teens and twenties, by 1915, a significant number of bungalows began to appear in the district. As construction moved northward from

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7th Avenue, the neighborhood became more middle class and ethnically mixed. The older Victorian area near downtown steadily declined as the residents departed to settle in the new, more expensive subdivisions that were opening up west of the Hillsborough River. The newer houses reflected the economic status of their owners. Most of the residences were one-story bungalows with little ornamentation. Even the larger houses tended to be vernacular versions of the Colonial Revival style.

Nevertheless, the Tampa Heights continued to grow and spread out as the city of Tampa gained new residents during the boom period of the 1920s. The vitality of the area is seen in the churches and schools constructed in the neighborhood. One of these, the Episcopal House of Prayer (Photo 10) at 2708 N. Central Avenue, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. Other notable religious buildings constructed during the 1920s were Rodolph Sholom Synagogue (Photo 38) at 309 E. Palm Avenue, the Tampa Heights Presbyterian Church (Photo 43), and the Palm Avenue Baptist Church (Photo 47).

The Classical Revival style Robert E. Lee Elementary School (Photo 19) at 305 E. Columbus Drive has served the education needs of the children of Tampa Heights since 1906. The neighborhood even had a major medical facility, St. Joseph's Hospital, which was located at 301 E. 7th Avenue. The building was demolished when the hospital relocated to Buffalo Avenue. Another significant public building in the area is the Mediterranean Revival style Fire Station No. 5 (Photo 46) at 1910 N. Florida Avenue. This elegant structure was erected in 1926 and is still used by the Tampa Fire Department.

By the beginning of the Great Depression of the 1930s, Tampa's cigar industry was already on the decline. The American preference for cigarettes and the growing use of machines to produce high quality cigars, threw thousands of cigarmakers out of work. Housing construction declined throughout the residential areas of Tampa, and the city began to lose population. The deterioration of Tampa Heights accelerated after World War II, and more modern suburbs began to open up in the northwestern area of Carrollwood and the Interbay area of the peninsula south of downtown. The construction of interstate highways 275 and 4 demolished many buildings in Tampa Heights, making the neighborhood less attractive for residents. The southern section of

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the neighborhood suffered from blight, with many older homes being demolished or extremely altered. Many residents began to flee the area in the face of spreading decay and a rising crime rate.

By the 1980s, Tampa Heights and the other venerable residential areas of Tampa began to enjoy a renewal as the older homes began to attract a new generation of property owners drawn by the ambiance of historic neighborhoods. The rejuvenation of Tampa Heights has also been spurred by the preservation efforts of such groups as Tampa Preservation, Inc., the Mayor's Challenge Fund, and Habitat for Humanity. Low interest loans to assist in the renovation of older homes and other cooperative intervention efforts have had visible beneficial results. Historic structures have been saved and much new construction aims at being compatible with the historic built environment.

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Tampa Heights Historic District
Tampa, Hillsborough County
Boundary Description and
Justification

Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Tampa Heights Historic District are those shown on the map that accompanies this nomination proposal.

Boundary Justification

The district boundaries encompass the greatest concentration of historic resources associated with the area of Tampa historically known as Tampa Heights. Those resources omitted from the district are separated by physical or visual barriers that deprive them of their traditional association with the neighborhood.